

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16 (Cancelled).

17 (Previously Presented). A method of welding thermoplastic molded articles, in particular of contour-welding three-dimensional molded articles, comprising the following features:

- moving join partners (1,2) into contact in the vicinity of an outline (K) that is to be welded;
- acting on the join partners (1,2) in the area of joining by a clamping device (10,10');
- exposing one (2) of the join partners (1,2) to radiation in the welding area by a laser welding beam (3); and
- additionally and simultaneously exposing the other join partner (1) in the welding area to an electromagnetic secondary radiation (15) for selective temperature increase thereof such that the temperature field in the welding area is homogenized.

18 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 17, wherein the secondary radiation (15) comprises at

least beam fractions that deviate from the wavelength of the laser welding beam (3).

19 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 17, wherein the secondary radiation (15) used is IR or UV radiation.

20 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 19, wherein the IR radiation used is one of a medium-wave and short-wave IR secondary radiation (15).

21 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 17, wherein the secondary radiation (15) is applied concentrically and synchronously of the laser welding beam (3).

22 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 17, wherein the secondary radiation (15) is being led ahead of the laser welding beam (3).

23 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 17, wherein the secondary radiation (15) is being focused.

24 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 17, wherein at least one of the secondary radiation (15) and the laser welding beam (3) is being applied by a clamping device (10') that is transmissive thereto.

25 (Previously Presented). An apparatus for welding thermoplastic molded articles, in particular for contour-welding three-dimensional molded articles, comprising

- a clamping device (10,10') for two join partners (1,2);
- a laser welding beam source for producing a laser welding beam (3);
- a laser welding beam guide (5,35) for guidance of the laser welding beam (3) to one (2) of the two join partners (1,2) in a welding area (18) between the two join partners (1,2);
- a secondary radiation source (14) for producing an electromagnetic secondary radiation (15); and
- a secondary radiation guide (16) for guidance of the secondary radiation (15) to the other (1) of the two join partners (1,2) in the welding area (18) such that, by selective temperature increase of the other join partner (1), the temperature field in the welding area (18) is homogenized.

26 (Currently Amended). ~~A method~~ An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the secondary radiation (15) comprises at least beam fractions that deviate from the wavelength of the laser welding beam (3).

27 (Currently Amended). An apparatus~~A method~~ according to claim 25, wherein the secondary radiation source (14) is one of an IR and UV radiator.

28 (Currently Amended). An apparatus~~A method~~ according to claim 27, wherein the secondary radiation source (14) is one of a medium-wave IR radiator and a short-wave IR halogen radiator.

29 (Currently Amended). An apparatus~~A method~~ according to claim 25, wherein a focus of the laser welding beam (3) is disposed substantially concentrically and synchronously of an area (19) the secondary radiation (15) acts on.

30 (Currently Amended). An apparatus~~A method~~ according to claim 29, wherein the area (19) the secondary radiation (15) acts on leads ahead of the focus (21) of the laser welding beam (3).

31 (Currently Amended). An apparatus~~A method~~ according to claim 25, comprising a focus device (16) for the secondary radiation (15).

32 (Currently Amended). An apparatus~~A method~~ according to claim 25, comprising a clamping device that is transmissive to at least one of the laser welding beam (3) and the secondary radiation (15).

33 (Currently Amended). An apparatus~~A method~~
according to claim 32, comprising a clamping roller (10')
through which passes at least one of the laser welding beam
(3) and the secondary radiation (15) towards the welding area.